



Newsletter

June/July 2026



HAPPY SUMMER HOLIDAY

Dear Parents and Carers,

As another wonderful school year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils, families and staff for making it such a successful and memorable year. The final few weeks have been incredibly busy, filled with exciting learning experiences, performances, visits and opportunities that have showcased the enthusiasm and talents of our children.

Across the school, there has been so much to celebrate. Year 4 enjoyed contributing to Derby's historic Well Dressing tradition and had an inspiring visit to QUAD as part of their work on 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' - watching the film they produced, as well as the Hollywood blockbuster. Year 5 demonstrated fantastic culinary skills while making delicious puff pastry tarts in Design and Technology, Hardwick performed beautifully in their Singing Concert, and they all produced some exceptional creative writing inspired by Philippe Petit story 'The Man Who Walked Between the Towers'. Meanwhile, Year 6 have enjoyed an unforgettable final term, welcoming our local MP, Baggy Shanker, to school, taking part in an archery taster day, visiting West Midlands Safari Park and, of course, delivering a truly spectacular performance of Grossbusters - The Monster Musical. Their residential visit to Gulliver's Kingdom also created memories that will last a lifetime.

Our pupils have also experienced democracy in action this term. Children across the school took part in a UK Parliament Education Outreach assembly, learning more about how Parliament works and how everyone can have a voice in society. It was also a pleasure to welcome Malcolm, who spent time with our School Council discussing the importance of pupil voice and active citizenship.

We have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the children who will be joining Year 3 in September and are looking forward to welcoming them and their families into our school community. We are equally excited to welcome several new members of staff, who will be joining Team Pear Tree and helping us continue to provide the very best education for our children.

Our annual Sports Day was another fantastic success. With soaring temperatures forecast, we made the sensible decision to hold the event at the Sherwin Club, ensuring that everyone could participate safely while still enjoying a day full of teamwork, determination and sporting spirit.

You'll also be able to read more later in this newsletter about our fantastic Community Action Week in June, during which our pupils demonstrated our school values of Trust, Care and Grow by making a positive difference within our local community.

We rounded off the year in style with another brilliant Rocksteady Concert. It was wonderful to see so many of our young musicians performing with confidence and enthusiasm, bringing smiles to the faces of attendees.

Finally, we say a fond farewell to our amazing Year 6 pupils. They leave us with wonderful memories, countless achievements and a great deal to be proud of. We wish each and every one of them every success as they begin the next exciting chapter of their education. They will always remain an important part of the Pear Tree family.

On behalf of everyone at Pear Tree Community Junior School, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We hope you all have a safe and wonderful Summer break.

See you back in school on Tuesday 8th September.

Warm regards, Mrs Collins, Head of School



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LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES



There's so much happening locally... Explore this guide to the vibrant programme of activities designed to keep young people active, engaged, and having fun throughout the school holidays. The Play, Sports, and Adventure Mobiles travel across South Derbyshire, bringing FREE games and activities to a variety of community venues. Visit their [website](#).

Across three venues, Derby Museums have a fantastic programme of FREE activities for children of all ages. Families can enjoy hands-on making workshops, creative craft sessions, and exhibitions.

Sisit [Derby Museums What's On](#).



DERBY MUSEUMS

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LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOME TO SUMMER!

DISCOVER OUR

WATER SAFETY DAY

TUESDAY 28TH JULY

Join us for our Water Safety Day where your child can learn essential water safety skills and enjoy a Welcome Party session too!*

Book today at www.everyoneactive.com

*Additional fees apply.



Your closest pool is Moorways. More information [online](#)

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LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES



The Summer Reading Challenge is back for 2026!

The Summer Reading Challenge is the UK library sector's biggest free annual reading event.

Whilst the school summer holidays are a well-deserved break for children, their reading can 'dip' during the long summer holidays if they do not have regular access to books and encouragement to read for pleasure. This can be a problem for schools come the new term so, we're backing the Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge once again to support you and your child's reading journey over the summer holidays!

All libraries in Derby will be running the Summer Reading Challenge throughout the summer. Pop to your local library to find out to get started.

How does it work?

The Challenge is to read 6 books.

Free events will be taking place from Mon 27 July.

There are more reading ideas and fun themed activities available on the Summer Reading Challenge website.

Who can take part?

Children aged from 4 to 11 years but younger and older children are welcome to join in too

Children must be a member of the library to take part. If they aren't already members, they can join for free! Find out more about how to join the library or ask library staff.



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LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES



PLAY DAY!

**MOORWAYS SPORTS VILLAGE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HUUB**

WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST • 11AM - 3PM

FREE ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Connect with local services and organisations that
support your family's wellbeing.

Moor Lane, Allenton,
Derby, DE24 9HY
01332 414310

HUUB



**everyone
ACTIVE**

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LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMER SESSIONS



For 8-18s

Tickets must be pre-booked

FREE! Family Hub events **Booking essential**

Thu 20 Aug Rollerworld
8-18 year olds, 10-11:30am

Thu 6 Aug Swim Party at Moorways Sports Village
8-12 year olds, 2-3pm | 13-16 year olds, 4-5pm

These are TICKET ONLY events. Tickets are first come first served.

Exclusively for 8-18 year olds within Derby City.

To get your free ticket you need to attend one of our ticketing sessions:

Fri 24 Jul 9:30-11:30am

Mon 27 Jul 2-4pm

Thu 30 Jul 4-6pm

Best Start Family Hub - Osmaston Allenton

Best Start Family Hub - Sinfen

Austin Sunnyhill CC



Follow us on Derby Family Information Service Facebook page for regular updates [facebook.com/DerbyFIS](https://www.facebook.com/DerbyFIS) or scan here for further information

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LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

FREE! Family Fun sessions!

For 0-11s and their parents or carers



No need to book- just turn up!

For further information please contact the Best Start Family Hub

Come and join us for themed art and craft, scavenger hunt, baby sensory areas, small world play, outdoor activities and much more! Please bring a refillable water bottle for your child.

*Supported by Bridge The Gap

Space Week

Come and explore the solar system with us! Junk model rockets, solar system craft and giant bubble fun.

Mon 27 Jul 1:30-3pm
Best Start Family Hub Rosehill*
Wed 29 Jul 1:30-3pm
Best Start Family Hub Derwent*

Dinosaur Week

Watch them move and make them roar! Animal roadshow (4 & 6 Aug), CANVAS Move Me! (5 Aug), YMCA pop up shop (5 Aug), making animal masks and book marks.

Tue 4 Aug 10-11:30am
Best Start Family Hub Mackworth Morley
Wed 5 Aug 10-11:30am
Best Start Family Hub Becket
Thu 6 Aug 1:30-3pm
Best Start Family Hub Sinfin

Let's Get Moving Week

Try new skills whilst having fun! Races, parachute games, giant Jenga and sporting fun.

Wed 12 Aug 1:30-3pm
Best Start Family Hub Derwent*
Thu 13 Aug 1:30-3pm
Best Start Family Hub Osmaston Allenton*

Transport Week

Explore different kinds of transport through craft and play!
CANVAS Move Me! (18 & 20 Aug).

Mon 17 Aug 1:30-3pm
Best Start Family Hub Rosehill
Tue 18 Aug 10-11:30am
Best Start Family Hub Mackworth Morley*
Thu 20 Aug 1:30-3pm
Best Start Family Hub Sinfin*

Songs, stories and rhymes Week

Celebrate the National Year of Reading through a variety of fun and interactive activities.
Collect your FREE 52 Things activity booklet, story time and Tiny Talk session.

Wed 26 Aug 10-11:30am
Best Start Family Hub Becket*
Thu 27 Aug 1:30-3pm
Best Start Family Hub Osmaston Allenton*



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UK Government



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LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

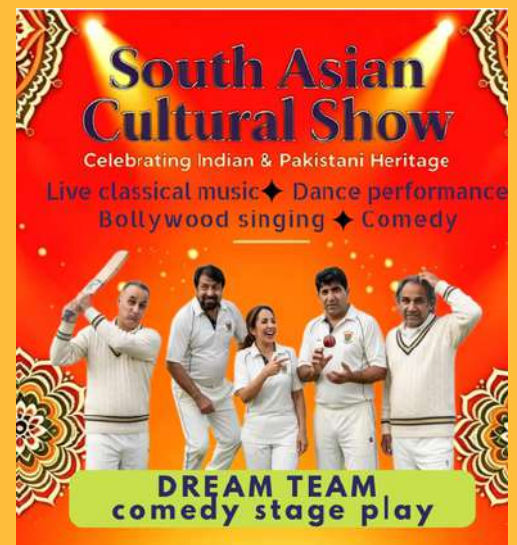
South Asian Cultural Show - a vibrant celebration of Indian and Pakistani heritage and entertainment!

Enjoy soulful classical singing accompanied by harmonium and tabla, graceful traditional dance, live performances of your favourite Bollywood tracks, a hilarious original comedy stage play, and witty stand-up comedy. Family-friendly, culturally rich, and packed with joy for all ages.

Come enjoy an evening of colour, rhythm and joy: something for everyone to love! Entry is pay what you can afford.

****This show will be performed in Punjabi.**

**Saturday 15th August at 6pm,
Normanton Library, Almond Street**



Birmingham Weekender takes over the city between Saturday 29th - Monday 31st Aug 2026, with FREE exhilarating performances, colourful installations and unforgettable experiences from a host of regional, national and international companies. It's the perfect way to spend the August bank holiday weekend with friends and family.

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LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Early Years Education Team invites you to...

JOIN US FOR OUR READING TRAIL!

Pick up a map from the Market Hall and follow the route to Derby Museum, solving a reading mystery along the way!

Thursday 6 August
10am-3pm
Derby Market Hall
Collect your trail map from any stall

PERFECT FOR YOUNG READERS (UNDER 7s)

Illustration: Andy Hulland @mrthebeef



8 FREE issues of The Week Junior magazine. Designed and written by experts to get kids to fall in love with reading & learning.

Discover, Read and Create at Derby Libraries This Summer!

Derby Libraries have a fantastic programme of FREE family events throughout the summer holidays. Children can take part in the Summer Reading Challenge, enjoy story times, craft sessions, LEGO clubs, coding activities, games, and creative workshops at libraries across the city. It's a brilliant way to keep young minds active, discover new books and have fun together during the holidays. Visit your local library or explore the full programme online to find events near you.



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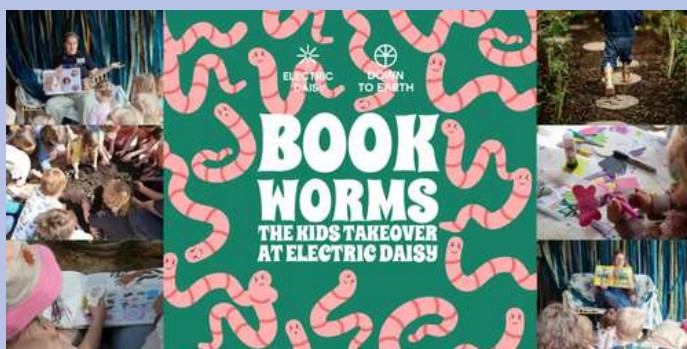


LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES



Thursday 20th August 10am Electric Daisy DE1 3NT

Calling all Bookworms! Head down to Electric Daisy for a day of stories and nature discovery. A full programme of storytelling from authors, illustration demonstrations and talks on nature. This is a family event with our storytelling mainly aimed at children under 11. Suitable for families. [Book Online](#)



Summer Adventures with the National Trust

Make the most of the summer holidays by exploring the beautiful National Trust places across Derbyshire and the Peak District. Families can enjoy the Summer of Play, packed with outdoor games, nature trails, obstacle courses, creative activities and hands-on adventures at locations including Kedleston Hall, Calke Abbey, Sudbury Hall. With plenty of space to run, play and explore, it's a fantastic way to enjoy the great outdoors together. Some activities are included with admission, while others may require booking. Find out more and plan your visit on the [National Trust website](#).

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HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD

FREE
FUN, FOOD & AMAZING MEMORIES!

communityone
3D HAF PROJECT
Developing Body Mind Character

3RD AUGUST TO 27TH AUGUST 2026
10.30AM - 2.30PM

FUN & EXCITING ACTIVITIES TO HELP BUILD
BODY MIND & CHARACTER

PAKISTAN COMMUNITY CENTRE
103 HARRINGTON ST
DERBY DE23 8PB

HEALTHY HALAL MEALS PROVIDED
MAKE NEW FRIENDS & BUILD CONFIDENCE
LEARN NEW SKILLS & HAVE FUN!
SAFE, INCLUSIVE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

INCREDIBLE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:

FAMILY TRIPS SEASIDE, DRAYTON MANOR PARK & ZOO	FOAM PARTY	CINEMA	GAMING PARTY	LASER TAG
ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS	SOCCER SKILLS CAMP	SLIME MAKING	DRONES	CRICKET CAMP
NERF PARTY	CAKES & BAKES	PIZZA MAKING	CRAZY SCIENCE	OXYGEN JUMPING

...AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!

SPACES ARE LIMITED - DON'T MISS OUT! | 01332 774055 | info@communityone.org.uk



For HAF at the **Pakistani Community Centre**, you can register via phone, email or dropping into the centre.

For HAF at the **Sherwin Club**, please [Register here](#). Add your voucher details and search 'Multi Sports School Holiday Club (Inspire Fitness Academy)', and then sign-up. For those who don't qualify it's only £10 a day!

HAF
Holiday Activities & Food

MULTI-SPORTS

BOXING | FOOTBALL

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLUB

ADDITIONAL DATES ADDED!
28-31 JULY | 3-6 AUGUST | 18-21 AUGUST

FREE FOR CHILDREN ELIGIBLE | AGES 4-16 | 9:30AM-1:30PM | £10 PER CHILD FOR NON QUALIFYING FAMILIES

LUNCH INCLUDED

HARRINGTON ST, PEAR TREE, DERBY DE23 8PB
FOR MORE INFORMATION 07546 161805

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LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES



Normanton Park



28th - 31st July



Aged 5-8



SIGN UP
NOW!



Aged 8-11



Bursary Code - 85BNE

Bursary Code - E9APG



Arboretum Park



4th - 7th August



Aged 5-8



SIGN UP
NOW!



Aged 8-11



Bursary Code - RBRMP

Bursary Code - QMMHN



Sinfin Moor Park



18th - 21st August



Aged 5-8



SIGN UP
NOW!



Aged 8-11



Bursary Code - VE5D6

Bursary Code - 7JTJV



FREE Summer Cricket Camps

Learn new skills, make friends and have fun this summer!

Derbyshire Cricket Foundation are delighted to be running their Summer Cricket Camps again this year across a number of parks in Derby, and they'd love to welcome children from Pear Tree.

The bursary code makes the camps completely FREE. Please note that each camp has a maximum capacity of 24 participants, so we encourage you to book as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

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COMMUNITY ACTION WEEK



Pupils took part in **Community Action Week** across the month of June. Returning to School on Tuesday 2nd June, and on theme of community and supporting others, the children were delighted to learn they had raised an incredible **£1,241.71 for Lifting Children's Hopes (LCH)**. LCH is an East Midlands charity which supports children and their families with school uniform and supplies, enriching experiences, visits and trips, as well as their mental health and wellbeing. Children raised the money by participating in a fun and obstacle-filled 'Colour Dash'; seeking sponsorship and making donations on the day of the race.

The children were then introduced to their 'Community Action Week Bingo' mission - throughout the month they were challenging themselves to carry out "small acts that can make a BIG difference." Several of these tasks were suggested by the pupils, and in the Environment category builds on the work of the Eco Ambassadors. For example, continuing sustainable travel to school promoted during the Living Streets' 'Walk to School Week'. It has been great to hear and see what the children have achieved so far! On Friday 5th June, parents & carers were invited into School to celebrate Eid-Ul-Adha by joining their child's class to participate in Eid themed arts and crafts. There were wonderful creations from stained glass bookmarks to crescent moon and star mosaics, to woven prayer mats. During the afternoon, pupils from Year 5 & 6 held a bake, samosa and drink sale. The samosas were very popular - 250 were sold! Thanks to their effort, they raised **£150 for the Pakistani Community Centre**. We selected this charity because the Centre frequently hosts our whole school Assemblies and Events. Luckily for us as we can't fit all twelve classes into our School Hall! Community Action concluded when Year 6 pupils visited Douglas Court Care Home. They spent time with the residents: playing games, enjoying craft activities, serving drinks and having a good ol' natter. The older generation appreciated the time with our caring children.

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LETTER FROM HEADTEACHERS



Dear Families,

As Derby City school leaders, we have become increasingly concerned by the negative impact of smartphone use by children in our schools. We welcome the actions of the government to increase online safety for the young people in our care.

As many of you will know, the government has already introduced an outright ban on phones in schools and, from September, schools will be legally required to have a phone free school day for pupils. This is being implemented through the Children's Wellbeing and School Bill 2026.

This means that there is NO NEED for your child to have a smartphone; in fact, in every school in Derby City, they will not be permitted to use it during the school day.

In Derby City, headteachers have come together to agree the following statements:

- Your child does not require a smartphone for transition to secondary school
- Your child will not be permitted to use a mobile device during the school day at any Derby City secondary school.

Many parents and carers worry that a smartphone is a way to ensure their child is safe: in fact, exposure to the online world is an unnecessary risk that your child does not need. Options such as

'brick' phones are available if you really feel that you want your child to be able to call you if needed; a smartphone is not a way to ensure that your child is safer. We encourage families to visit the website below to help you make informed choices about whether to get your child a smartphone and, if so, when to do so.

Headteachers in Derby City support the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign to wait until your child is at least 14 years old before giving them this sort of device when they are more ready to navigate the online world it exposes them to. An increasing number of parents are waiting until their child is 14 or 16 years of age and report finding that the young person is less attached to the device and more able to use it as a tool rather than quickly developing the negative, addictive behaviours often seen with smartphone use. For further information, please visit:

[Smartphone Free Childhood.](#)



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SURVEY

- The Children's Commissioner has launched **The Big Future survey**. It's your chance to have your say on what it's like to be a child or young person in England today - what you love, what worries you, how you have fun, your school and the changes you want for a better future.
- It takes 10 minutes to complete the survey.



UNIFORM

We expect **all** children to be wearing the correct school uniform and shoes. Children dressed appropriately feel more connected to their community, take pride in their school and behave well.

[Uniform Information on the School Website](#)



ART COMPETITION

Does your child love drawing or painting? **The Copley Prize at The Lowry** is a fantastic art competition for children aged 4-11, inviting them to create an artwork inspired by L.S. Lowry. Entries can be submitted throughout the year, with termly winners progressing to the annual final. The overall winner will have their artwork professionally framed and displayed alongside Lowry's famous paintings in The Lowry Galleries - an incredible opportunity for budding young artists! [Find out more.](#)

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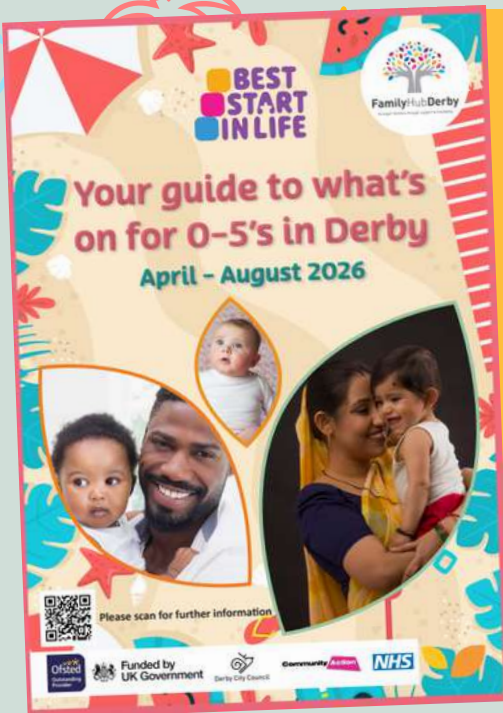
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FAMILY HUB

Get the advice and support you need whilst having fun as a family! Derby's Family Hubs are there to welcome you and your family to find the help you need through support and friendship. They offer a range of free activities, sessions, advice and support for families and young people aged from 0-19 years and up to 25 years for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The offer changes termly and this edition contains events for the Summer Holidays. [Latest Guide](#)



REDUCED PRICE UNIFORM

Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance (DF4TA), in partnership with Derbion, will once again be running their annual School Uniform Hub this summer.

The School Uniform Hub will be open from Monday 10th August to Friday 14th August 2026 at the Derbion Community Hub and will provide families with access to school uniform and other essential items at a reduced cost ahead of the new academic year.

Applications are open now.

Last year, the project supported nearly 300 children across Derby with school uniform and shoes, helping families manage the significant costs associated with returning to school.

[School Uniform Hub Information and Application website.](#)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Thank you to all the family members who attended our June and July Birthday Parties this half-term. We hope you had fun!



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PARENTING SUPPORT

The Solihull Approach is about emotional health and wellbeing support for all children, parents, carers and grandparents through many free online courses and resources.

Relationships shape who we are. They help our brains to learn all sorts of things. Relationships are especially important in our early years as our brains, and the building blocks for our emotional health, are shaped by everything we absorb from our environment and develop most rapidly in the first two years of life and throughout childhood, accelerating again in adolescence.

The Solihull Approach has a website called 'in our place' where you can get parenting advice from pregnancy until your child is 19 years old.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance - Emergency Food Support

If your family is experiencing food insecurity, the Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance can help by providing emergency food parcels through a network of local food banks and support organisations. The service is confidential and can also signpost families to additional advice and longer-term support. If you need help, you can request support online.

Community Action Derby - Cost of Living Support

If you're feeling the impact of rising living costs, Community Action Derby offers free advice and practical support. Their team can help with benefits, debt, energy bills, food support, housing, budgeting and accessing local services. Whether you need immediate assistance or longer-term guidance, support is available to help you through difficult times. Full details.

HELP!

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ATTENDANCE

Parents will.....	School will.....
Value their child's education and value the importance of excellent attendance.	Provide engaging lessons where all children want to attend.
<u>Absence.</u> Phone school on 01332 760610 if their child is absent by 8:50am and provide any evidence to support the absence e.g. hospital appointment card, doctor's appointment. 	Record absences on the register with the correct code. 
<u>Punctuality.</u> Make sure your child is on time. Gates open at 8:45am.	Offer breakfast club for children needing to be in school earlier and offer support in an emergency. 
<u>Leave of Absence</u> Complete a leave of absence form request at least seven days prior to the absence and hand into the office. 	Consider a request on an individual basis and inform parents by letter. School will contact Derby City Council.
School and parents will support children to be in school on time, every day. In the case of no communication, school will phone home or complete a home visit to support the family. 	

In the last week, the children enjoyed spending their Attendance Reward money on treats for their whole year group - from pizza parties to bouncy castles, coming to school paid off!

OFSTED

Thank you to all the parents/carers who spoke with the OfSTED inspectors last week; your feedback was incredibly valuable and has been heard.



STAFF LEAVERS

Heartfelt thank yous to Mrs Jacques, Mrs Pratt, Mr Triance, Miss Talbot, Miss Zywocka and Mr Phillips for their contributions to PTCJS.

Goodbye & Good Luck

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OFFICE NOTICES



Scooters are not to be ridden on the playground at the beginning and of the day. A reminder that dogs (other than those for mobility) are not allowed on site. We are a nut free school.



Please help keep our children safe.



URGENT: All family members need to sign-up for Arbor asap. Use this [LINK](#). If you need more help, please visit the School Office.



ORAL HYGIENE

Good oral health is an important part of keeping children healthy and happy. Establishing good dental habits from a young age helps prevent tooth decay, pain and infections, allowing children to eat, speak and learn with confidence.

Register with a Dentist



If your child is not already registered with a dentist, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Regular check-ups help identify any problems early and keep teeth and gums healthy. NHS dental care is free for all children under 18 (or under 19 if in full-time education).

Top Tips for Healthy Teeth



Brush teeth twice a day for two minutes using fluoride toothpaste.

Children should be supervised when brushing until they are at least 7 years old.

Avoid sugary snacks and drinks between meals where possible.

Encourage water or milk as the main drinks, especially between meals.

Visit the dentist regularly - don't wait until your child has toothache.



Did You Know?

Tooth decay is one of the most common reasons why young children are admitted to hospital. Many of these admissions are for tooth extractions under general anaesthetic, yet most cases of tooth decay are preventable.

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NEED TO KNOW - FORTNITE

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

POW!

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.



ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been



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SAFEGUARDING



Worried about a child during the holiday?

If you believe that a child is at **immediate risk** and in need of protection then you should call the **police on 999 immediately**.

Alternatively, if you want advice from the police and the child is not in immediate need of protection, you can call them on 101.

Children's Social Care and the First Contact Team

You may want to discuss your concerns with a social care worker. The First Contact team deals with all concerns about children and young people across the city. Members of the team will help you to talk about the concerns you may have for a child and decide what actions may be required to make a child safe. You can contact them Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm. Telephone: 01332 641172

Social Care Out-of-Hours Support

Use Derby City Careline

It operates Monday to Friday from 5pm to 9am, with a 24-hour service during weekends and bank holiday. Phone: 01332 956606.

People who are hard of hearing or Deaf please email DCCcareLine@derby.gov.uk or text 07812 300177.

Concerns which are not urgent can be raised using their [online form](#).



Other organisations:

01159 825090
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